

### EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT GETS PORKER OF THE WEEK AWARD

(Mr. HEFLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, the earned income tax credit [EITC], is designed to help workers not poor enough for welfare, and may have been a good idea at first, but it has turned into a bureaucracy out of control.

In hearings last year, both the Treasury secretary and the IRS Commissioner admitted that the fraud and overpayment rate in the \$20 billion program could be as high as 45 percent. Get that: \$9 billion in waste. It should come as no surprise that the IRS actually made the problem worse.

The agency's 1992 experiment that gave about \$400 million in EITC benefits to those who had not applied but seemed entitled only created a monster: \$175 million of erroneous payments. Part of it was poorly recorded paperwork. After all, 90 percent of the benefit checks, up to \$2,500 each, go to those who pay no income taxes in the first place—including illegal aliens and prisoners.

For wasting money through a near-sighted bureaucracy, the earned income tax credit get my Porker of the Week Award.

### SENIORS LOCKED OUT AND LOCKED UP WHILE THE DOCTORS MAKE A DEAL

(Mr. SCHUMER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. Speaker, yesterday two contrasting events showed just where the Republican majority wishes to take us on Medicare. On the one hand, Mr. Speaker, Speaker GINGRICH was in the room with the doctors, the AMA, and they were negotiating a deal. On the other hand, Mr. Speaker, a group of seniors who wished to be heard were actually arrested and handcuffed, although the charges were later dropped, for daring to try and speak to one of the committees that has their future in its hands. Simply, the doctors were in a room cutting a deal. I ask, Why weren't the seniors at the table? All they got, Mr. Speaker, was locked out and locked up.

Mr. Speaker, if the doctors made a deal and got their cut, the only cut the seniors got was to their benefits. This shows what is going on here. Very simply, they are lining up the providers and giving them what they want and telling the beneficiaries, the senior citizens who have worked so hard, "You are going to suffer."

Mr. Speaker, we must stop this Medicare plan. It is unfair, unwise, and unbalanced.

### ONLY THE REPUBLICAN PLAN SAVES MEDICARE

(Mr. EWING asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. EWING. Mr. Speaker, after languishing for months without a plan to save Medicare, the Democrats have at least finally proposed something, even though it does not address the heart of the problem.

Their plan to find \$90 billion in Medicare savings is not about saving Medicare; it's about saving Democrats for the next election. The Democrat plan does nothing but postpone Medicare's bankruptcy for 3 years. Furthermore, under the Democrat plan, when the baby boomers begin retiring in 2010, Medicare will be more than \$300 billion in the red.

The Republican plan, on the other hand, makes a real attempt to address what is a long-term problem. Changes will be made in an attempt to make a 1960's program both functional and affordable in the 1990's. And our plan will make Medicare solvent through 2010.

Mr. Speaker, there are two plans to change Medicare. But only one saves it. And it's being offered by the Republican Party.

### BACKROOM DEALS BEING MADE WHILE SENIOR CITIZENS GET ARRESTED

(Ms. DELAURO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, if you want to understand how the special interests are winning out over the public interest in this Congress, just read today's newspapers. There are two stories about two different groups who came to Washington to protest parts of the Republican Medicare cuts. One group got a private meeting with the Speaker of the House. The other group got arrested.

When the American Medical Association and its high paid lobbyists came to Capitol Hill, they were given a closed-door meeting with Speaker GINGRICH. A backroom, billion-dollar deal was made and the AMA reversed its position and endorsed the Medicare cuts. When the National Council for Senior Citizen's came to Capitol Hill, its members got no meeting with the Speaker, its members got arrested. Yesterday, 15 senior citizens were arrested and taken away in handcuffs. Their crime? Asking to participate in our democracy.

Mr. Speaker, the Republicans are not afraid to listen to the special interests. Why are Republicans afraid to listen to the people?

### HOW CAN THIS BE CALLED A CUT?

(Mr. KIM asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KIM. Mr. Speaker, the part A in Medicare is going to be bankrupted which has been financed by FICA payroll taxes. That is not enough. Beneficiary pay half, employer contribute the other half. That is not enough. What we trying to do is trying to fix the bankruptcy part A program without raising taxes of those younger people.

Let us take a look at the part B. This is financed by one-third by beneficiary, two-thirds by the other taxpayers. Used to be half and half. If we do nothing, it is going to end up 10 percent paid by beneficiary, 90 percent by the other taxpayers, which is not fair.

All we are trying to do is maintain the ratio, one-third as is now by beneficiary, and two-third by the other taxpayers. How could my colleagues call that a cut? Is it really cut? We are trying to fix part A and part B from bankruptcy without cutting it. I am tired of this rhetoric.

### REPUBLICAN LEVEL OF INTOLERANCE RISES TO NEW HEIGHTS

(Mr. KLINK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KLINK. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, October 11, 1995, is a day of infamy as 15 senior citizens were taken prisoner of war in the Republicans' assault on America. These gray-haired ladies in wheelchairs and veterans walking with canes were not mugged in some back alley. They were hauled off in handcuffs from the Committee on Commerce of the U.S. Congress.

Mr. Speaker, 1 week earlier dozens of Republican lobbyists lined up, streamed into our committee, took mailbags full of letters in support of the Republican rape of Medicare, but that was fine because the leadership agreed with that position, and no effort was made to stop them. In fact, even though the letters came from nonexistent senior citizens, that action was endorsed. But when live senior citizens in an orderly manner tried to approach the dais yesterday to ask why no Medicare hearings had occurred on the legislation, they were silenced immediately.

Mr. Speaker, the Republican level of intolerance rose to new heights in a disgraceful show of authority and force to these seniors, and, I repeat, some in wheelchairs, others walking with the aid of canes, were arrested, handcuffed, and taken out of the people's House and taken to the big house.

### MORE HEALTH CARE CHOICES

(Mr. KNOLLENBERG asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, the new majority plan to save Medicare